Indiana Code 15-4-1, the Indiana Seed Law, is administered and enforced by the Indiana state seed commissioner (i.e., Indiana state chemist). The state seed commissioner is responsible for product registration and sampling, inspecting, making analysis of, and testing seed to determine compliance with the provisions of the act.

## **Seed Label Tags**

The Indiana Seed Law requires that bags or containers of agricultural seed, lawn seed, and mixtures of seeds over one pound in size have an attached tag specifying the following items.

- 1. The commonly accepted name of each kind and variety of seed component in excess of five percent that is contained in the package and the percentage by weight of each seed component in order of its predominance. (The variety designation can be omitted if the label states the name of the kind of seed and the words "variety not stated.")
  - a. If there is more than one seed component in the package the word "mixture" or the word "mixed" must be shown on the label.
  - b. If a mixture of two or more varieties of the same kind of seed is in the package, it may be labeled as "blend."
- 2. Lot number or other lot identification.
- 3. Origin (state or country where grown) for all seeds except hybrid corn.
- 4. Percentage of all weed seeds.
- 5. Name and rate of occurrence per pound of each kind of restricted noxious weed seed present.
- 6. Percentage of all other seeds (may be designated as "other crop seeds" or "crop seeds").
- 7. The percentage of inert matter.
- 8. For each named agricultural or grass seed:
  - a. Percentage of germination, exclusive of hard seed.
  - b. Percentage of hard seeds, if present.
  - c. Calendar month and year the test was completed to determine such percentages.
- 9. Name and address of person who labeled the seed or who distributed the seed within the state.
- 10. For all seed named and treated and requiring a separate label:
  - a. A word or statement indicating that the seed has been treated.

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- b. The commonly accepted coined chemical or abbreviated chemical (generic) name of any applied pesticide.
- c. A description of the process or the commonly accepted name of the substance applied if other than a pesticide.
- d. If the substance in the amount present with the seed is harmful to human or other vertebrate animals, a caution statement such as "Do Not Use For Food or Feed." The caution for mercurials and similarly toxic substances shall be a poison statement or symbol.
- 11. For all pre-inoculated seeds, in addition to other labeling requirements:
  - a. A word or statement indicating that the seed has been pre-inoculated.
  - b. The date beyond which the inoculant is not to be considered effective.

The Indiana Seed Law does not require the labeler to follow any specific format for the required label information. However, the rules and regulations do place restrictions on how such information must be shown. One requirement is that "abbreviations or contractions" of required terms is not permitted. Another requirement is that the omission of any required terms is not permitted. For example, seed that does not contain any "other crop seeds" or "weed seeds" must be labeled as having "0.00 percent" for each of these respective categories. Following is an example of a seed analysis tag.

LOTNO		
LOT NO	SEEDSMAN NAME	
	ADDRESS	
	CITY STATE ZIP	
WIND AND V	ADJETY (a., "VADJETY NOT CTATED)	
KIND AND V	ARIETY (or "VARIETY NOT STATED)	
Minimum Pure Seed:	% Where Grown:	
Other Crop Seed:	_% Weed Seed:%	
	Noxious Weeds:	
Inert Matter:		
Inert Matter:  Minimum Germination:	Noxious Weeds: (If present, kind and number per pound)	
	(If present, kind and number per pound)	
Minimum Germination:	(If present, kind and number per pound)	

Contents of the bag or container are listed in percentages of the total weight of the bag or container.

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#### Lot Number

The "Lot Number" is used for identification purposes and can be used to trace the originator of the seed.

#### Seedsman Name

"Seedsman Name" identifies the name and address of the person who labeled the seed or who distributed the seed within the state.

## **Crop Seed**

The percentage of agricultural crop seed or lawn seed is listed for each variety of agricultural or lawn seed contained in the bag or container.

### **Seed Mixtures**

When two or more different kinds of seed, each in excess of five percent by weight, are present in the bag or container, the seed tag must be labeled "Mixture" or "Mixed" to indicate the presence of more than one kind of seed. The percentage, by weight, and the name of each seed component must be listed in order of predominance. The seed tag must also list the separate germination percentage, hard seed percentage (where applicable), and origin for each component of the mixture. Following is an example of a seed mixture seed tag. Seed mixtures sold under "common kind designations" such as Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and medium red clover must be labeled as "variety not stated" when the seed variety name is not listed on the seed tag.

JOHN DOE SEED COMPANY, INC.
ANYWHERE, INDIANA 47000
"SHADY GRASS SEED MIXTURE" LOT AB1
73.50% BARON KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS GERMINATION 80% WA. GROWN
13.72% PENNLAWN CREEPING RED FESCUE GERMINATION 85% OR. GROWN
10.78% \* CHEWINGS FESCUE GERMINATION 85% OR. GROWN
0.09% OTHER CROP SEEDS
1.82% INERT MATTER
0.09% WEED SEEDS
\* Variety Not Stated
NOXIOUS WEED SEEDS - NONE
GERM TEST DATE: JAN 1984

Source: Indiana Seedsmen's Handbook (revised January 1987), Office of the Indiana State Seed Commissioner Web site

Example: Medium Red Clover, Lot Number 123

Variety Not Stated

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### Minimum Pure Seed

"Minimum Pure Seed" lists the total percentage of pure agricultural or lawn seed contained in the bag or container. If the tag lists 99.14 percent pure crop seed and the bag weighs 100 lbs. then 99.14 lbs. of the bag or container must be pure crop seed.

#### Where Grown

"Where Grown" identifies the state or country where the seed originated.

## **Other Crop Seed**

"Other Crop Seed" identifies the percentage of agricultural or lawn seed not named under "Crop Seed" on the seed analysis tag. For example, if the pure crop seed is medium red clover, then the other crop seed might be another variety of clover or some other crop seed. A low or zero percentage of other crop seed is best.

#### **Inert Matter**

The percentage of sand, stones, dirt, sticks, pods, chaff, broken seeds, etc. is listed as inert matter. Inert matter does not grow. A very low percentage of inert matter is desirable.

#### **Germination Test**

"Germination Test" identifies the month and year the seed was tested for minimum germination. The seed germination test is valid for a period of up to nine months.

#### Minimum Germination

"Minimum Germination" lists the percentage of pure live seed that will produce normal plants under favorable conditions in the field. This percentage is calculated by multiplying the percentage of pure live seed by the percentage of germination.

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#### **Hard Seed**

The percentage of hard seed (where applicable) that will germinate is listed under "Hard Seed." Hard seed will not germinate within the germination period of the primary seed in the bag or container because it does not absorb water due to the hard seed coat. Hard seed is undesirable when immediate germination is needed. Conversely, it is desirable when an extended germination period will increase the chances of a good vegetative stand. Hard seed is common in legumes seed such as clovers, alfalfa, etc.

### **Weed Seeds**

Indiana has allowable limits on the percent of certain varieties of weed seeds that can be contained in a bag or container of seed. A zero percentage is best.

Example: The clover seed analysis tag for a 100 lb. bag of clover seed lists: Pigweed Seed 0.01%

120 (number of pigweed seeds found in one pound of clover seed)

x 100 (lbs. of clover in bag)

12,000 (number of pigweed seeds in a 100-pound bag of clover seed)

1,194,737 (number of pigweed seeds in one pound)

12,000 divided by 1,194,737 = 0.01%

Seeds of plants recognized as weeds by the Indiana Seed Law or U.S. Customs are listed under "Weed Seeds." Section 6 of the Indiana Seed Law [IC 15-4-1-6 (a)(5)] states that it is unlawful to distribute seed within Indiana if:

- The seed contains or consists of PROHIBITED noxious weed seeds and/or contains RESTRICTED noxious weed seed in excess of 0.25 percent by weight, or
- 2. The RESTRICTED noxious weed seed is less than 0.25 percent unless the name and number per pound of each RESTRICTED noxious weed seed is listed on the seed tag.

The name and rate of occurrence per pound of each kind of RESTRICTED noxious weed seed is listed under "Noxious Weeds."

## **Prohibited Noxious Weed Seeds**

PROHIBITED noxious weeds are perennial weeds that are extremely difficult to control. Most states prohibit the sale of seed containing PROHIBITED noxious weed seed. Each state has its own specific list of PROHIBITED noxious weed seeds.

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Indiana has classified the following weeds as either PROHIBITED noxious weeds or RESTRICTED noxious weeds when found in seeds offered for sale. Indiana has other specific laws which deal with illegal propagation and infestation of specific weeds. Local government agencies are generally responsible for enforcing these laws.

Prohibited Noxious Weeds in Indiana	Restricted Noxious Weeds in Indiana
Canada Thistle	Bitter Wintercress
Field Bindweed	Buckhorn
Johnsongrass	Cocklebur
Perennial Peppergrass	Corncockle
Perennial Sowthistle	Curled Dock
Quackgrass	Dodder
Russian Knapweed	Eastern Black Nightshade
Wild Garlic	Field Peppergrass
Wild Onion	Giant Foxtail
	Horsenettle
	Mustard
	Oxeye Daisy
	Pennygrass

### **Additional Information**

## **Internet Keyword Search:**

Indiana Seed Law, Indiana Code 15-4-1; Seed Laws; Association of Official Seed Analysts

#### **Indiana Resources:**

Office of the Indiana State Seed Commissioner Purdue University 175 South University Street West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2063

Telephone: (765) 494-1557 FAX: (765) 496-3967

www.isco.purdue.edu/seed/index seed.htm

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service www.ces.purdue.edu/counties.htm

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